

THE JOURNAL OF THE MALTESE DIASPORA

MALTESE NEWSLETTER

LINKING THE MALTESE ALL OVER THE GLOBE



Foreign Minister taken ill in Beijing

Foreign Minister Dr. George Vella has had a minor cardiac intervention after he was taken ill during a visit in Beijing. The minister is in Beijing for talks with the Chinese authorities.

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat wished the minister well and tweeted that he (the minister) was feeling better.

The minister is being kept in hospital for observation and care and is expected to return to Malta in the coming days, the government said in a statement.

The statement said that the minister has been in touch with his family and the Prime Minister. Dr Vella was also contacted by President Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Opposition leader Simon Busuttil and Speaker Anglu Farrugia, who all wished him a speedy recovery.

The Maltese Living Abroad wish Dr Vella a speedy recovery



THE LAUNCHING OF **THE ANZAC AND MALTA – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN** IN VICTORIA

We would like to thank the Maltese Historical Association (Australia) and the Maltese Community Council of Victoria for holding the launch of the commemorative book **MALTA AND THE ANZACS – THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN** at the Maltese Community Centre, Parkville, Victoria on the 21 July 2015.

The Consul General of Victoria Victor Grech launched the book. Present were Dr Victor Borg, President of the MCC and the Dr Edwin Borg-Manche' as well as Joe Borg, Charles Gatt and Mario Bonnici, President Secretary and Treasurer of the MHS respectively. This function was very well attended and there was great interest in the ANZAC book. We thank also the Newton

On Thursday morning Frank Scicluna attended the social gathering of the Monash Senior Citizens Group at Waverley. Once again, the members of this vibrant society received well this publication and ordered several copies.

The books are selling fast. Therefore, make sure to acquire a copy for you and your family.

For details email Frank on honconsul@live.com.au and he will give you all the details

AUSTRALIA HALL IN MALTA



As Australia IS COMMEMORATING the centenary of the Gallipoli campaign, a chance encounter by AMA Vice President Dr Stephen Parnis has sparked efforts on the other side of the world to preserve the remnants of a little-known chapter in the ANZAC story.

Strategically positioned between the tip of Italy and the north coast of Africa, Malta is no stranger to conflict. At various times it has been fought over by the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Ottomans, French, Germans and British.

But AMA Vice President Dr Stephen Parnis was nevertheless surprised when he saw the Australian coat of arms engraved on the façade of an imposing sandstone building on the outskirts of Pembroke on

the island's north coast during a visit in August last year.

"I was in the car heading to my cousin's place when I saw it," Dr Parnis told *Australian Medicine*. "I knew wounded Australian soldiers had been brought to the island for treatment, but I had never heard of the building."

The structure, called Australia Hall, was erected in November 1915 using donations from the Australian public.

It served as a much-needed centre for entertainment and recreation for convalescing troops who arrived on the island in their thousands as the deadly toll of the Dardanelles campaign and other conflicts in the eastern Mediterranean mounted.

In May 1915 alone, 4000 wounded ANZACs from Gallipoli were transported to Malta, and by the end of World War One 58,000 had crossed its shores – including around 200 who never left and are buried on Malta.

Remarkably, the two-storey Hall survived the Second World War unscathed despite the fact that during the conflict Malta was the target of a sustained German and Italian bombing campaign that made it one of the most heavily bombed places on earth.

But the ensuing decades were less kind, and the building now sits – roofless, gutted and unused - on prime land.

His interest piqued by his chance discovery, Dr Parnis got in touch with former AMA President and Australian War Memorial Director Dr Brendan Nelson to see what might be done to preserve the building.

Within days he received a call from the Australian High Commissioner to Malta Jane Lambert, who has since become closely involved in efforts to protect Australia Hall, including regular contact with its private owner.

Given the building's dilapidated state, any restoration work would not only require the co-operation of the current owner, but would likely cost several millions of dollars – money yet to be forthcoming from the Australian Government.

But Dr Parnis praised the efforts of Ms Lambert and was hopeful that Australia Hall will be preserved and restored.

"The High Commissioner has been in constant contact with the person who owns it and brought to their attention the significance of this building to Australia, so that when restoration occurs it will be sensitive to Australian history and sensibilities," he said.

Planning requirements and delays have meant there is unlikely to be an announcement about the Hall's restoration on Anzac Day, but there are hopes plans will be completed in time to be revealed on the occasion of its anniversary in November this year.

For Dr Parnis, restoring the building to something approaching its former glory would be a way to ensure the bonds of care and support that developed between injured diggers and local Maltese in the early years of World War One are not neglected.

"It shows that the links between Australia and Malta are much closer than just the post-World War Two period of immigration," he said.

Adrian Rollins



The Group Santa Marija Sydney



Il-Grupp Festa Santa Marija qeghdin jorgannizaw il-festa ta' l-Assunta nhar il-Hadd 9 ta' Awissu 2015 fic-Centru Malti ta' La Valette

Il-programm tal-festa huwa dan:

- ➔ Fit-3.00 pm tibda' l-quddiesa kkoncelebrata minn Fr. Noel Bianco u Fr. Benedict Sant mssp. bis-sehem tal-kor ta' La Valette
- ➔ Wara l-quddiesa tohrog il-purcissjoni akkumpanjata mill-banda O.L.Q.P. li se ddoqq marci Marjani, flimkien mar-ruzarju mqaddes
- ➔ Wara jkun hemm wirja ta' loghob tan-nar minn Malta, u l-banda tesegwixxi programm tal-festa.
- ➔ Mifsud Brothers jiddevertuna b'kanzunetti u anke b'marci popolari.
- ➔ Il-mistiedna specjali Stacey Saliba se tallegrana bil-vuci sabiha taghha fejn sa taghtina kanzunetti popolari
- ➔ Il-klabb ikun miftuh mis-1.00 pm il-quddiem fejn tkunu tistghu tixtru ikel u xorb Malti.

MALTESE HAMLETS IN THE FIFTEEN HUNDREDS

For the benefit of those who take some interest in the history and folklore of our islands, I came across what I think is some useful information .

In 1514 in Malta there were about sixty small villages, or hamlets, scattered around the island and they lasted till the plague outbreak of 1592, when most of their inhabitants died. By time their names and identity were taken over by bigger, or different villages and hereunder is a list of these hamlets, with their respective number of inhabitants as it stood in 1514 and whereby they were situated.

Hal Dwin with 100 dwellings and Hal Muxi with 200 to-day form part of Zebbug (Malta)

Bubaqra with 38 dwellings and Nigret with 200 now form part of Zurrieq.

Hal Niklusi with 80 dwellings and Hal Xluq with 37 now are part of Siggiewi

Hal Warda with 15 dwellings and Hal Bordi with 18 have been taken over by Attard.

Hal Dghif with 30 dwellings and Musulmett with 35 now form part of Naxxar.

Hal Bizbut, Hal Tmin and Hal Gwann to-day have been integrated with Zejtun.

Hal Mula was to be found between Zebbug and Buskett

Hal Tartani was situated between Dingli and Buskett.

Hal Kbir was situated between Qrendi and Siggiewi

Hal Lew between Siggiewi and Mqabba

Hal Millieri was between Mqabba and Zurrieq

Hal Tabuni was to be found between Qrendi and Girgenti

Hal Manin between Zurrieq and Qrendi

Hal Qadi and Hal Saftan where next to Gudja

Hal Ferut and Hal Farrug where next to Luqa.

Hal Gawhar was next to Kirkop

Has Sajd was next to Zebbug (Malta)

Has Sajd (another one) was to be found between Zabbar and Marsascula

Hal Kaprat was situated between Birkirkara and Qormi

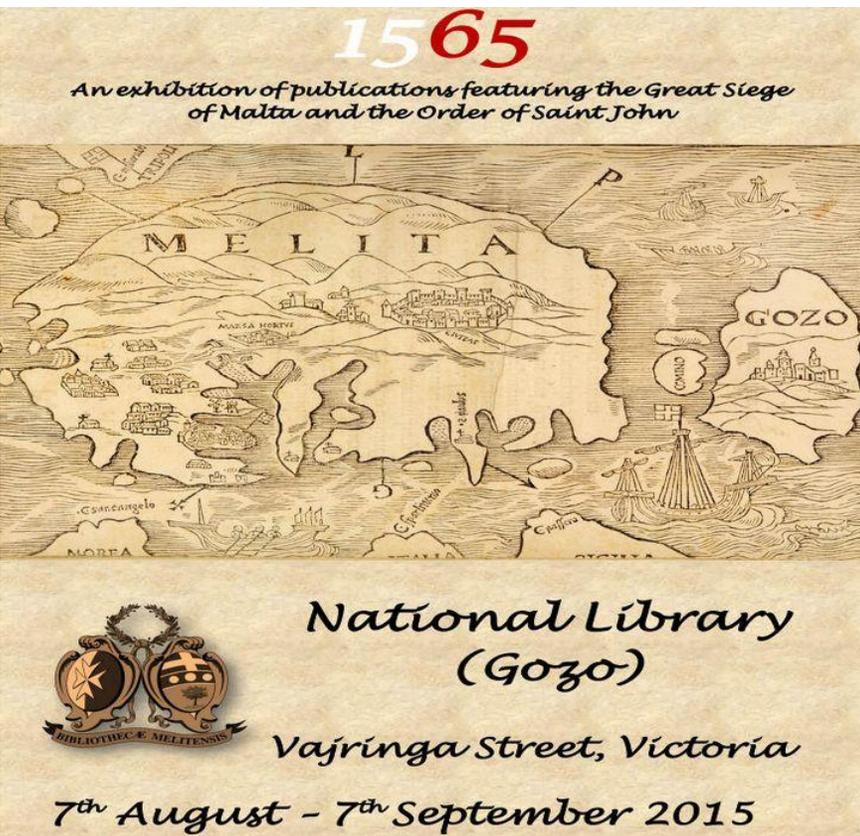
Hal Gharrat was between Cospicua and Tarxien (to-day's Fgura)

Hal Far was between Zurrieq and Safi

Hal Dimech, Hal Pessa, Hal Arrig, Hal Militt and Bir Miftuh to-day all form part of Gudja.

I found this information whilst reading a book called "Is-Sahhar Falzun" (Falzon the Sorcerer) written by Agostino Levanzin who in turn, as he himself declares in the book, got this information from Castagna, Abela, and Ciantar from a letter that King Ferdinand sent to his ambassador in Rome in 1514.

Submitted by GREG IL-MOSTI



1565: Gozo exhibition on the Great Siege of Malta & Order of St John

1565, is the title of an exhibition of publications featuring the Great Siege of Malta and the Order of Saint John, to be held at the National Library (Gozo), Vajringa Street, Victoria.

The documents being exhibited are linked with the historical event of the Great Siege as well as the history of the Order of the Knights of St John. This event is being organised as part of the programme of commemorations taking place across the islands, for the 450th anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta.

The official opening will take place on Friday, the 7th of August at 9.00am at the National Library by the Minister for Gozo Dr. Anton Refalo. The exhibition will remain open to the public until the 7th of September, during the normal library hours.

MHC Press Release No; 05/2015

MHC hosts Ms. Paulette Fenech, Director-General of Malta Red Cross



Dr. Joseph Pirotta (1st from left) Mr. Leonard Blazeby, Ms. Paulette Fenech,
H.E. Mr. Charles Muscat and Mrs. Victoria Muscat (center), Mrs. Amanda Pirotta (2nd from right)

On 23 July 2015, the Malta High Commission hosted cocktail drinks at the residence in honor Ms. Paulette Fenech, Director General of Malta Red Cross, who attended, with Dr. Joseph Pirotta, Deputy High Commissioner, the Fourth Commonwealth International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on International Humanitarian Law held from 20-23 July 2015 at the Realm Hotel, Canberra.

Mr. Leonard Blazeby, Head of Mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Australia, was among the selected group of guests, which included Mr. and Mrs. Kanti Jinna and Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Squair, President and Treasurer, respectively, of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Selleck, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hobbs.

The evening was also graced with the presence of Knights and Dames of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and Malta, namely: Dr. Terry and Mrs. Debbie Dwyer, Brig. Peter Evans and Mrs. Evans and Dr. Jennifer Dunlop.

Mr. Blazeby spoke briefly about the Commonwealth Conference just held in Australian Capital, outlining the work of ICRC in preparation for the Conference to be held later in the year in Geneva.

The High Commissioner welcomed Ms. Paulette Fenech and thanked her for representing Malta at the high level meeting.

Ms. Fenech spoke briefly about the challenges of the Malta Red Cross and expressed her gratitude to Dr. Joseph Pirotta for attending the Conference and the High Commissioner and Mrs. Muscat for honoring her with a reception at the residence.

Dr. Pirotta also acknowledged and thanked Paulette for her participation in and their collaboration during the Conference.

Meditation for Beginners: 7 Easy Tips for Mindfulness



Follow these expert tips to help get you started on your meditation routine and experience all the benefits of a well-balanced mind.

We've all heard the wonderful benefits of meditation. Meditation will help you focus, gives you greater energy levels, makes you generally happier, makes you feel less anxious and can take years off you!

When you are starting out, your mind can easily wander. Here are SEVEN top tips to help you get started on your meditation

routine.

1.Sit up! Let's get started! Whether you're sitting on the floor, on a cushion or a chair, sit upright and make sure your spine is straight. A well balanced body equals a well-balanced mind, which makes it easier to connect with your breath. Try a few different positions until you find which is the most comfortable for you.

2.Establish a routine Try to set aside a specific time every day to meditate. The quicker you get into a routine, the easier it will be to keep it up. You might find it easier to meditate in the morning when your mind is not filled with clutter. Make sure you do this before you switch on that phone or laptop!

3.Focus on your breath The breath is the key to feeling calm and reviving your energy levels. Focus on your breath and pay attention to it. In our busy lives we tend to take shallow breaths, but when meditating, focus on breathing deeply from the belly. This will instantly restore calmness and relaxation.

4.Location, location, location Make sure you find a tranquil place to meditate. Whether it's your garden or bedroom, choose somewhere where there is little noise or where you will not get interrupted.

5.Start small When it comes to how long you meditate for, focus on something that is achievable for you. For some it may be just a few minutes a day. Having a regular practice that you can commit to is far better than an irregular one with a longer length. Do what fits your life and commit to it. You'll notice the benefits in no time!

6.Keep your focus The main thing for meditation is to focus. Tune into your breath, let tension go with each exhale. When you notice your mind wandering, rather than try to squash the thought (it will only gain strength), acknowledge it, let it go and return to your breath. Simply return to your breath. If you are having difficulties settling your thoughts, connect with all your senses to anchor you in the now. What do you smell? What do you hear? What do you feel?

7.Enjoy the journey It's important to enjoy meditation because it truly brings so many positive benefits. So don't be too hard on yourself if you don't get it right the first time, and pace yourself. The more regularly you meditate, the easier it will become and you will be feeling the benefits in no time with friends asking why you look so radiant!



Writing to the editor/contribution of Articles

Write to the Editor

Share your views, comments, and suggestions, or contribute articles, such as on your own experience or

achievements.

Send them to the Editor at email : honconsul@live.com.au

MALTA - A Part of Empire



Left to right: (a) The Grand Harbour, which the British fleet blockaded in 1798, and which [William Scamp](#) extended by about 90 acres of water space from 1860. (b) The Portes des Bombes, Floriana, doubled by Colonel E. W. Durnford in 1868 "for the greater convenience of the people." (c) "The Main Guard in Palace Square, Valletta; the portico was added by the British in 1814.



Left to right: (d) Close-up of the royal coat of arms over the portico of the Main Guard: the inscription records the granting of Malta to Britain by the desire of the Maltese, and with the consent of Europe. (e) St John's Bastion by the City Gate, leading round eventually to more bastions and the high, stout curtain wall protecting Valletta: "such vast masses, bulky mountain-breasted heights" (Coleridge's *Collected Letters*, 2: 600). (f) The picturesque aspect of Malta: a long climb up from the waterfront (note the balconies above the left side of the steps, a particular feature of traditional Maltese homes).

The Maltese Islands have a long and fascinating history and indeed pre-history. But what mattered to the British in the early nineteenth century was the main island's strategic value — though even that was hardly apparent at first. Napoleon had easily captured Malta from the Knights of the Order of St John in 1798, and, having been approached by the Maltese for help, the British sent in warships and troops to assist in a blockade of the Grand Harbour. When the French surrendered in Gozo, the second largest island, it was the Sicilian flag, rather than the British, that flew from the ramparts, because nominally the Order had held Malta in fief from the "Kingdom of the Two Sicilies" (Naples and Sicily). The final surrender of the French took place in 1800, the armistice being signed near the Portes des Bombes, Floriana. The British and the Maltese celebrated their victory in the Auberge de Castille, the Grand Master's flamboyantly baroque eighteenth-century palace. The British were then ready to move on: by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802, Malta was to be returned to a reformed Order, under Sicilian protection.

However, while the British were there trade had begun to recover after the blockade, and the people "had become accustomed to British protection" (Grech 28). A deputation was sent to George III, and eventually, by the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Malta became a British Crown colony. By now the British were very well aware of Malta's value as a military and naval base.



Left to right: (a) The Lazzaretto where Disraeli and Sir Walter Scott were both quarantined. (b) The baroque façade of the Auberge de Castille, extensively reconstructed 1741-45, and used as the British Army HQ after 1800 (it is now the Prime Minister's office).

Malta now became a place for the British to visit, especially for its warm climate. The first visitors were quite amazed by what they found. [Samuel Taylor Coleridge](#), having accepted a friend's invitation, went out for health reasons in 1804. He found the heavy fortifications, steep and uneven grid-patterned roads, long flights of steps and flat-roofed houses all quite extraordinary. The natural environment too was totally unfamiliar, leading him to remark later upon the "noiseless dews of Malta, where rain comes seldom and no regular streams are to be met with" (Letters 7). Nevertheless, he came to understand the place, and stayed several years, becoming Private and then Public Secretary to Captain Alexander Ball, Britain's first governor there. The poet praised Ball highly as "the abstract Idea of a wise & good Governor," but was to confide that the machinery of colonial government was "awkward & wicked" (*Collected Letters* 2: 668,1178). He appears to have taken little interest in Valletta's richly baroque architectural heritage (see Ashton 228). He returned in 1807 no better in health, and now firmly addicted to opium. Another early visitor was Lord Byron, who found Malta a useful staging-post on his travels, visiting it in 1809 and 1811, and describing it once as his "perpetual post-office, from which my letters are forwarded to all habitable parts of the globe" (Moore 180). He stayed there long enough to have a brief flirtation with the wife of a minister at Constantinople (the woman who inspired Florence in *Childe Harold* [Nichol 56]), and nearly had a duel with an officer over some trivial misunderstanding. Valletta had already become a garrison town with a colourful colonial ambience. But those endless stone steps were a particular problem for Byron, and, unfortunately, he fell ill with a fever there on his way home.



(a) An example of the "richly baroque" churches encountered by the British visitors: St Lawrence in Vittoriosa, from Dockyard Creek, by Lorenzo Gafa (1638-1704) — the most noted and probably most prolific of Malta's church architects under the Knights. (b) View of the former capital, Mdina. Its great domed cathedral of 1703 was Gafa's masterpiece. (c) The baroque interior of St John's Co-Cathedral, described by Scott as "magnificent."

The arcaded walk of the Lower Barracca Gardens, Valletta, where Sir Alexander Ball is commemorated in a little neo-classical temple, restored in 1884. The much newer monument visible beside the garden is the Siege Bell. This



commemorates not the Great Siege that so fascinated Scott, but what became known as the Second Siege of Malta during World War II; it also commemorates the award of the George Cross to "Fortress Malta" for its heroism then. Note the repairs to St Lazarus's curtain wall at the right.

In the 1830s, two other important visitors were much more responsive to the new Crown Colony. One was a young [Benjamin Disraeli](#), who was there in the summer of 1830. He was thrilled by Valletta: "The city is one of the most beautiful, for its architecture and the splendour of its streets, that I know: something between Venice and Cadiz" (61), he enthused. In the following year, the older and ailing [Sir Walter Scott](#) went even further, seeing Malta as

"an island, or rather a city, like no other in the world." Like Disraeli, on first arriving he was quarantined at the Lazzaretto on Manoel Island, a building he described as "spacious and splendid, but not comfortable; the rooms connected with one another by an arcade, into which they all open, and which form a delightful walk." Once allowed into Valletta, Scott thought the place "a splendid town," relishing the irregularity and variety of its gradients, and the "singularity of the various buildings, leaning on each other in such a bold, picturesque, and uncommon manner" — he said that it gave him ideas for finishing Abbotsford with a screen and a "fanciful wall decorated with towers." Perhaps because he was less anti-Catholic than Coleridge, he responded to the town's splendours as readily as Disraeli, greatly admiring the rich interior of St John's Co-Cathedral, which he described as "by far the most magnificent place I ever saw in my life" (565-8). A great ball was thrown in his honour, with about four hundred guests — mostly British officers and officials, he recalled, but including attractive Maltese women as well. He was taken around the island to see all the places of interest, which would surely have included the former capital of Mdina, on which the Knights of St John had lavished their resources in the early eighteenth century. Fascinated by the history of the Order, Scott wrote *The Siege of Malta*, one of his two last, long-unpublished works, about that key event in earlier Maltese history.

Such visitors would only have met the élite of Maltese society. Towards the end of their stewardship, the Knights had become corrupt and impoverished (see Hough and Davis 56). During the blockade, the French had done more damage to the economy, looting and plundering the palaces, churches and other grand buildings, and breaking up Maltese ships for firewood. The picturesquely crowded houses that drew Scott's eye were often crowded inside too, with people living several to a room. Other people, poorer still, would have toiled up the endless stone steps that bothered Byron, to beg in the main streets of the city. Beggars were a common sight everywhere. In the mid-1830s, for example, "there were as many as 2,500 beggars reported in the villages alone" (Mallia-Milanes 181n.). Along with its strategic position, its baroque and natural wonders, its fascinating history and its potential for a lively colonial life-style, Malta presented its new government with many challenges. Would the machinery of government prove as "awkward & wicked" as Coleridge supposed? What kind of legacy would the Victorians leave this "fortress island"?

I totally agree that these Maltese E-Newsletters should be published in a book and distributed all over the world. The amount of research and cultural richness that they contain is a living encyclopedia and make us all Maltese proud of our language, heritage, culture and identity. I know that the Malta Migration Museum at Castille Square, Valletta is preserving them on one of their monitors for all the visitors. We encourage the editor to take action in this matter.

Thanks you! James Cassar – Melbourne Australia

FLAGS AND SYMBOLS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA



The National Flag of Malta --- The Constitution provides that the National Flag of Malta consists of two equal vertical stripes, white in the hoist and red in the fly, with a representation of the George Cross, edged with red, in the canton of the white stripe; the breadth of the flag is one and a half times its height.



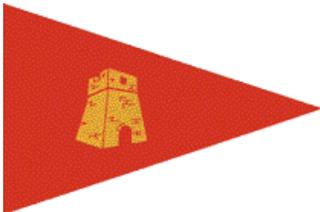
The emblem of Malta The emblem of Malta is described by the Emblem and Public Seal of Malta Act (Cap.253) as a shield showing an heraldic representation of the National Flag of Malta; above the shield a mural crown in gold with a sally port and eight turrets (five only being visible) representing the fortifications of Malta and denoting a City State; and around the shield a wreath of two branches: the dexter of Olive, the sinister of Palm, symbols of peace and traditionally associated with Malta, all in their proper colours, tied at base with a white ribbon, backed red and upon which are written the words "Repubblika ta' Malta" in capital letters in black.



The Presidential Flag of Malta The Presidential Flag of Malta was introduced by Proclamation dated 12th December, 1988. This flag is flown on the President's official residences and offices and on all occasions at which he is present. It has the same proportions as the National Flag and consists of a blue field with the Emblem of Malta at its centre; and a Maltese Cross in gold in each corner.



The Merchant Flag of Malta The Merchant Flag of Malta introduced by the Merchant Shipping Act (Cap. 234) consists of a red field bordered in white, with a white Maltese Cross at its centre.



The pennant used by the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta The pennant used by the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta consists of a red field with the symbol of the Armed Forces in gold at its centre



The pennant used by the Commissioner of the Police Force It is the custom to display the National Flag of Malta only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs in the open. However, it may also be displayed at night on special occasions, and in such case it should preferably be floodlit.

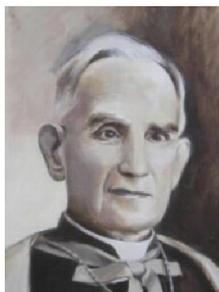
- b. The National Flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- c. The National Flag should be displayed near the main administration building of every public institution on all days when the weather permits and especially on National Holidays.
- d. The National Flag should be displayed during school days on or near every school building and in or near every polling place on election days.

Maltese National Anthem – L-innu Malti

Words by: Dun Karm Psaila

Music by: Robert Sammut

**Twieled Haz-Żebbug
fil-1871**



In 1922, Sammut composed, among other things, a short hymn-like melody. A year later, Dr Laferla, Director of Primary Schools in Malta, obtained the melody, and asked the well-known priest Rev. Karmenu Psaila (alias Dun Karm) (1871-1961) to write the lyrics for it as a school hymn. Dun Karm began writing, and suddenly conceived the idea of writing a hymn in the form of a prayer to the Almighty. Dun Karm, who was later to become Malta's National Poet, wanted to bridge the gap existing between the political parties and to unite all with the strong ties of religion and patriotism. Innu Malti was sung in schools soon afterwards but was first performed publicly on 27 December 1922 and again on 6 January 1923, during two concerts at the Manoel Theatre.

On 3rd February 1923 another concert was held at the lavish Manoel Theatre organised by the Għaqda Kittieba tal-Malti. The anthem was played by the Birgu Soċjetà Mandonilistka, and performed by the children of Sliema Government girl's school, with Dun Karm's original verses. Orchestration was later composed by Maestro Vincenzo Ciappara for the King's Own Band and played on the 8th September 1936. The Maltese government declared the anthem as the official Maltese anthem in 1945.

L-INNU MALTI

**Lil din l-art helwa, l-Omm li tatna isimha,
ħares, Mulej, kif dejjem Int ħarist:
Ftakar li lilha bl-oħla dawl libbist.**

**Agħti, kbir Alla, id-dehen lil min jaħkimha,
Rodd il-ħniena lis-sid, saħħa 'l-ħaddiem:
Seddaq il-għaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem.**

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE MALTESE NATIONAL ANTHEM:

***Guard her, O Lord, as ever Thou hast guarded!
This Motherland so dear whose name we bear!
Keep her in mind, whom Thou hast made so fair!***

***May he who rules, for wisdom be regarded!
In master mercy, strength in man increase!
Confirm us all, in unity and peace!***

L-Ilsien Malti

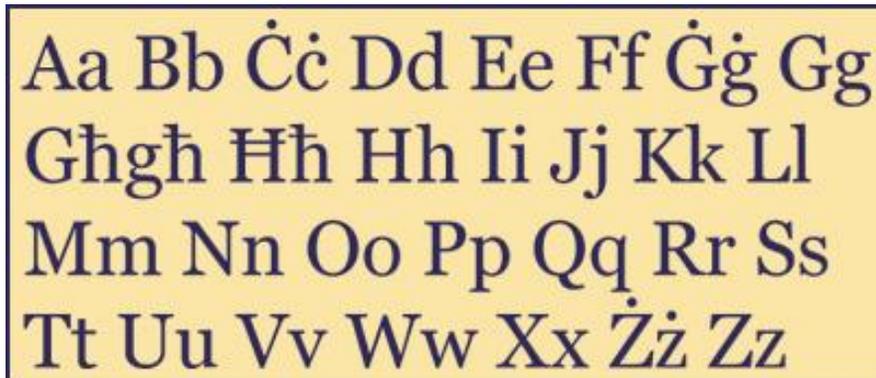


Mela ftit taż-żmien ilu kont qed nitkellem ma' persuna mlaħħqa sew u skużat ruħha talli l-ittri tiktibhomli dejjem bl-Ingliż, flok bil-Malti. Skużat ruħha għax hasbet li qed tonqosni mir-rispett, imma spjegatli li hi thossha *handikap* (din hija l-kelma li użat) hafna li ma tafx tikteb bil-Malti.

Fis-sew, niltaqa' ma' hafna nies kompetenti fis-sugġetti tagħhom u mlaħħqin sew, izda li, b'xorti hażina, meta jiġu biex jiktbu xi kitba żgħira bil-Malti, imqar nota qasira, jiktbuha bl-Ingliż għax jaħsbu li jaqgħu għaċ-ċajt jekk meta jiktbu bil-Malti jieħdu xi żball. Issa ngħiduha kif inhi, il-Malti sa ftit taż-żmien ilu ma kienx mgħallem bħalma jintgħallmu l-ilsna tat-twelid, u b'xorti hażina kien migi mgħallem qisu lsien barrani. Il-persuna li semmejt qabel spjegatli li meta kienet ghadha tifla tal-iskola, kienu jgħallmuhom il-Malti darba fil-gimgha: nhar ta' Gimgha fl-aħħar lezzjoni. U biex tagħqad, f'nofs il-lezzjoni kienet issir bħal *assembly* qasira.

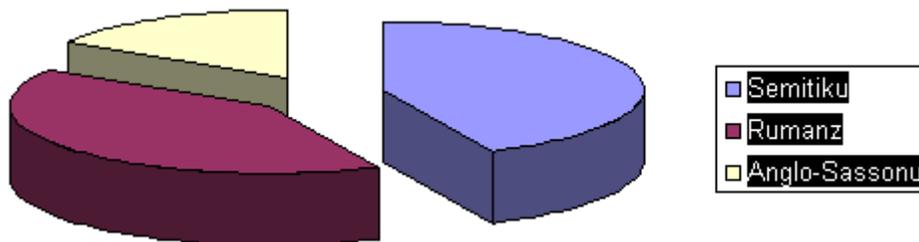
Tistgħu tobsru x'lezzjoni kienet issir! Jien niftakar li, fl-iskola fejn kont, kienu jgħallmuna kollox bl-Ingliż, u mn'alla li għall-Malti inzerajt għalliem tajjeb hafna għax kieku llum...Dun Karm, li bħal daż-żmien nfakkru t-twelid u l-mewt tiegħu, ukoll għadda minnha din l-istorja. Biżżejjed ngħidu li sa qabel l-1912 kien jikteb bit-Taljan biss, għax bit-Taljan biss kienu jgħallmuhom u t-Taljan kien għadu l-ilsien ufficjali. Huwa kiteb l-ewwel poezija bil-Malti meta kellu 41 sena, imbagħad ma reġa' lura qatt. Id-diskors fuq kemm jiswa l-Malti ma jfissirx li rridu nwarbu l-Ingliż. Anzi, dan l-ilsien internazzjonali għandna bżonnu, u miegħu għandna bżonn ilsna oħra bħall-Franciz u l-Ġermaniz. Imma lsienna dejjem jiġi fuq quddiem,

u mal-Maltin għandna dejjem nibqgħu niktbu u nitkellmu bil-Malti.



←Dan huwa l-alfabett Malti. Il-kwistjoni ta' l-ilsien Malt hi marbuta ma' l-istorja ta' Malta. Il-gzejjer tagħna kienu minn dejjem taht il-hakma tal-barranin li ma kienx jaqblilhom li jghinu l-izvilupp ta' l-ilsien Malti għax kienu jafu tajjeb li l-ilsien tal-pajjiz mahkum jgib miegħu qawmien nazzjonali u jnissel fil-qlub mahkuma u mjassra sentiment kbir ta'

patrijottizmu. F'din il-qagħda l-poplu tagħna kien jahseb u jtkellem kif riduh il-barranin. L-ilsien tagħna qatt ma kien magħruf bhala kien ufficjali, la mill-Gvern Civili u lanqas mill-awtoritajiet tal-knisja.



THE PALACE ARMOURY – VALLETTA MALTA

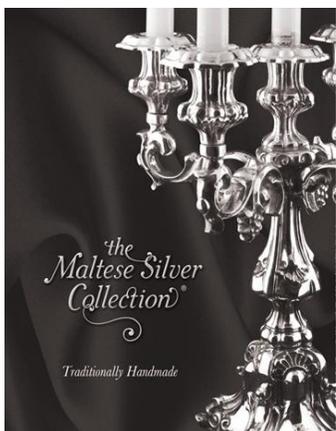


Whilst many multimedia shows depict the life and times of the Knights of St John in Malta, this is one of the only visible and tangible attractions of the glorious religious order. The Armoury museum is still housed in the majestic building where the knights themselves kept their arms collection.

The Palace Armoury is one of the world's greatest arms collections housed in their original buildings, and ranks among the most valuable historic monuments of European culture. The Knights of St John were a unique brotherhood of resolute warrior monks. From Malta, their island stronghold, these combatant

aristocrats from the noblest houses of Europe, carried out their relentless crusade against the Ottoman Turks. The Palace Armoury is certainly one of the most visible and tangible symbols of the past glories of the Sovereign Hospitaller Military Order of Malta. Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt transferred the Order's arsenal to the palace in 1604. It was the pride of the Order. Apart from being lavishly adorned with impressive arms trophies, it held enough arms to equip thousands of soldiers. It was housed in the magnificent hall at the rear of the building, right above its present location, which were originally the stables. In 1975, the entire collection was transferred to its present ground floor location to make way for the Islands' new House of Representatives. During the 1850s, the British Government intended to remove the collection for safe keeping to London. However, this was never fully undertaken and in 1860 the armoury was officially opened as Malta's first public museum. Although only a fraction of its original splendour, the Armoury still contains abundant material of Italian, German, French and Spanish origin from principal arms production centres. Outstanding examples of splendid parade armour by master armourers command pride of place. The armour decorator's art is amply displayed on various exquisite pieces. Also displayed are exotic examples of Turkish armour in the Islamic & Ottoman section. The armoury also constitutes a rare example of a working arsenal surviving in its original building. It is all the more interesting because it includes with the massed arms of the common soldiers, the enriched personal armours of the nobility. Highlights in the collection include the Italian Sallet, the La Valette armour, the Wignacourt parade armour, the 'Pompeo della Cesa' armour, the Cuirassier armour, swords and rapiers, early crossbows, the matchlock arquebus, the Italian 'snaphaunce'

VISIT THE CULTURAL MALTA WEBSITE - www.culturalmalta.org/index.php/Heritage/The-Palace-Armoury.html



MALTESE SILVERWARE AND FILIGREE

With the advent of the Knights of St. John and with architects building a rosary of magnificent churches, silverware in all manner of shape and form came into its own. Palaces, churches, patrician homes, knightly residences and the Holy Infirmary were adorned and endowed. All this helped the trade along as the use of silverware and silver ornaments in elite and ecclesiastical circles became the order of the day. What has been produced over the centuries from 1530 onwards is now a precious part of Malta's patrimony. Mention 'Maltese Silver' and association with coffee pots, sugar bowls and library lamps is immediately made. For many years collectors have sought after Maltese silver in international auction rooms and by collectors.

Maltese silverware is an important part of the country's patrimony and is much sought after by collectors in international auction rooms. This craft, which flourished under the Knights, is still carried on in small workshops across the Islands. These jewels beautifully express Maltese symbols which are unique for Malta and Gozo. A wide variety of made in Malta sterling silver jewellery are

available in this category. The very popular hand-made sterling silver Maltese Cross comes in various shapes and patterns making it suitable to all ages and preferences.

There are sterling silver jewellery items that can be used as earrings, pendants, rings, necklaces, bracelets as well as many other decorative items making them suitable for a gift or as a souvenir. Filigree is a delicate variety of traditional jewellery that is made from thin strands of silver or gold that are twisted into different forms, shapes and designs and made into exquisitely original jewellery pieces. Filigree as a jewellery-making technique was born in the times of the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Etruscans and slowly the tradition spread to different parts of the world. Maltese filigree owes its remotest origins to the ancient Phoenicians who moved around the Mediterranean, spreading their culture, traditions and skills throughout. In fact filigree is still worked today in various other Mediterranean countries like Italy, and Greece, and even in Portugal. Today one can find impressive filigree in very different parts of the world, but each region has its own patterns, designs and type of workmanship that differs considerably from the rest. That is what makes Maltese filigree so unique. Traditional, handmade and still retaining unique aspects that make it stridently different from all other types of filigree around the Mediterranean, Maltese filigree is highly appreciated by jewellery connoisseurs.



EXPLORING GOZO.

Gozo Folklore may be considered to embrace all the habits and customs of our civilization, all its numerous activities, the quality of the houses people lived in, the dress they wore, the food they produced and ate, their social dealings with one another, their education and religious life, their festivals and amusements, together with beliefs in the afterworld, superstitions like the evil eye as well as innumerable other facets of human life.

Maltese and Gozo folklore is concerned with all this. It explores the history, literature, folktales, old wives tales, old-time trades, legends, children's rhymes and games, traditional herbal medicine, nicknames, proverbs, birth and death rituals, feasts, long-forgotten sensational incidents like unsolved murders and old customs from Malta and Gozo.



Lace making in Gozo is still practised although in a much smaller volume than years ago. Writing this article is making me remember my young days, how we used to play in the streets every evening after school and on Saturday mornings. In those days Gozo was free from cars and we had the streets all to ourselves. We used to have so much fun playing together that our mothers found it very hard to make us quit and go in for supper.

I also remember how every night before going to sleep I used to watch my great-aunts at work making lace (bizzilla) far into the night - - Bless their Souls.

Gozo folklore - - On this small island old customs die hard and this is particularly true in the case of Nicknames and some religious rituals related to superstition like the evil-eye. On the contrary the use of Maltese proverbs in everyday language has completely disappeared.

NICKNAMES

Gozitan and Maltese families especially in the villages still use and retain their old family nicknames. Sometimes it is easier to locate a person by asking for him by his nickname than by his name or surname.



For example 'where does George-of Antonia- live? Nicknames may have an association to anything: to colours Guzepp L-iswed (Joe of the Black), to nationalities Guzepp l-Ingiliz (Joe of the English), to trades Guzepp l-Iskarpan (Joe of the Shoemaker), to animals (Joe of the Snake) and so on.

←*Typical maltese balcony, made of wood and closed. Part of Maltese and Gozo national heritage*

Nicknames (Laqmijiet in Maltese) may sometimes be funny or sarcastic, like Ganni l-Ggant (John of the Giant) when Joe happens to be a midget of a man. Some people choose their own nickname (Joe the Ginger) because of his fair hair but mostly it is bestowed on people whether they like it or not, such as Gorg il-Fartas (George of the Bald One).

This is a very interesting aspect of Gozo Folklore and I like to think that this phenomenon pertains to the Maltese Islands alone but I have no idea if this is true or not. In any case nicknames are an integral part of our culture and folklore, like the "Ghana" and a number of simple local products which are

still made today in the old-fashioned way.

Maltese Folk Music and Singing: Ghana

Traditional Maltese folk music has deep roots that date back to the 16th century, since music has always played an important part in the every day life of Maltese people.

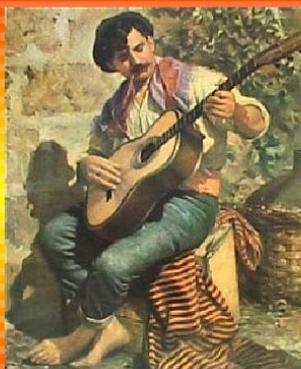
This type of local folk music is called ghanja in Maltese.

It can safely be said that folk music in Malta was heavily influenced by its geographical location. In fact, researchers state that ghanja is a combination of the famous Sicilian ballad mixed with Arabic tunes.

In the old days, visitors to the Maltese islands used to comment that they were very impressed with the Maltese people's seemingly natural ability to sing and rhyme.

This folk singing was widespread on the islands and one could hear men and women singing while doing their daily activities on the farm, in the fields or around the house.

Maltese Traditional Singing



The Music of the Knights

Ghanja was in fact the music of peasants, fishermen and working class men and women.

A close look at the lyrics will reveal that each song usually recounts a story about life in the village or some important event in Malta

history. Street hawkers used to sing folk songs to attract attention to their products and declare how their products were better than the ones the seller next to them was selling! That's traditional Maltese marketing! Nowadays the ghannej (meaning folk singer) is usually accompanied by three guitarists. However, in the old days there used to be other musicians accompanying the singer..



First Maltese mayor of Australia

Pioneer with a deep love for his homeland

The late Loreto York, (died in 2009) the first Maltese mayor in Australia was renowned for his sense of humour and irreverent wit.

Born as Loreto Meilak in Sliema in 1918, Mr York, who played a pioneering role in local government in Melbourne and was the first non-Anglo, non-Celt to sit on the Brunswick Council. In an interview recorded for the Australian National Library in 1989, Mr York spoke frankly about the obstacles placed in the way of newcomers within his party, the Australian Labour Party.

Yet, he was indispensable to them. Multilingual - Maltese, Italian, English, Arabic and smatterings of French, German and Greek - charismatic and endowed with great energy, he could directly communicate with migrants who did not feel comfortable speaking English.

He also played an important role in the Storemen & Packers' Union, especially its 1970s campaign for equal pay for women in the cosmetics manufacturing industry.

Born into a family of 11, his merchant seaman father, Salvatore Meilak, was away at sea for long periods which made life for his mother very hard. Mr York only had four years of schooling but eventually obtained an apprenticeship as a ladies' hairdresser at a Sliema salon, which catered for the wives of the British Admiralty.

He was a handsome and charming man with a bevy of girlfriends well into his 80s. As a young apprentice hairdresser, he was noticed by Mrs Vanderbilt, wife of one of the world's wealthiest men who was vacationing in Malta.

She had asked his employer whether she could take the young apprentice to Europe with her as her gigolo. Nothing came of the offer but Mr York's charms contributed to a highly interesting life, including an affair with an Egyptian princess during the war.

Stationed in London after the war, he changed his name from Meilak to York as he felt a foreign name in London stood in his way of personal advancement. In 1947, he married Olive Turner, an English photographic assistant, and their son Barry was born three years before they emigrated as "£10" migrants in 1954.

Expecting Melbourne to be a smaller version of London, Mr York was bitterly disappointed with what he saw as its backwardness, intolerance and racism.

As mayor of Brunswick, he reversed the official protocol at the annual mayoral ball to allow the aboriginal leader, Pastor Doug Nicholls and his wife, to enter the Town Hall first, as head of the official guests, instead of the state Governor and MPs. He never fully embraced Australia and always thought of himself as Maltese - heaven help anybody who ever said a word against his motherland in his presence.

He was a working class intellectual who thought deeply about life. He was spiritual but not religious. One of the songs he requested for his funeral, John Lennon's Imagine, appealed to him for the lines about having "no religion" and "no countries".



GREYSTANES - OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH (EST 1972)

The Catholic community at Greystanes has worshipped in the area since 1836 when they were part of the large Parramatta parish established by Archbishop Polding. In 1946 they became part of the new parish of Wentworthville and in 1958, among chicken farms and market gardens, a primary school and Mass centre were built. The high school was started in 1962.

The parish of Our Lady Queen of Peace was established in 1972 with Fr Duggan as the first parish priest. He was succeeded a year later by Fr Darmania who, with a dedicated group of parishioners, built the church, which opened in 1975. Fr Galway together with his assistant Fr Sciberras continued the work of developing the parish.

The church was blessed and opened by His Eminence Sir James Darcy Cardinal Freeman on 20 April 1975. After extensive renovations it was solemnly dedicated by Bishop Bede Heather on 7 July 1996.

For 10 years until 1994 the brothers and sisters of St Gerard Majella built on these foundations. Sadly, this was also a time of pain and grief for some because of the offences of a few.

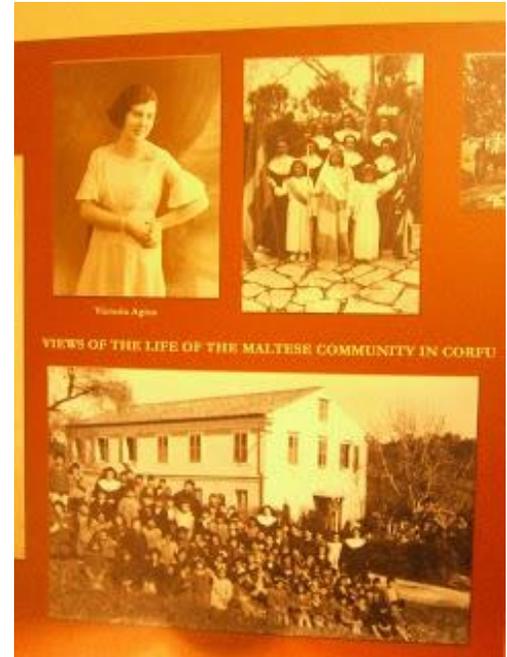
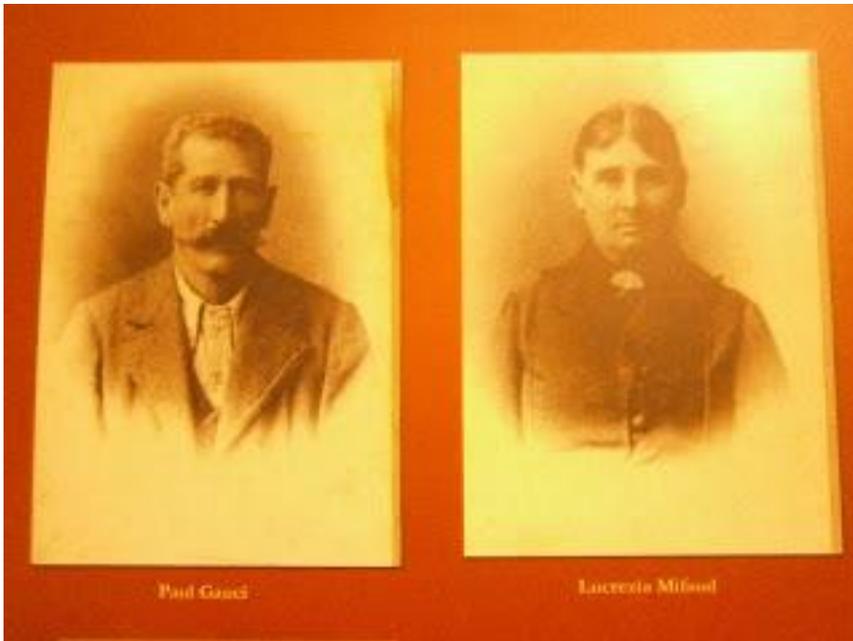
From 1994 till his retirement in 2010, Fr Gerry Iverson, in collaboration with the Parish Team and Pastoral Council, encouraged and welcomed the sharing of the various rich gifts of parishioners, which promote and enhance parish ministries. Fr Gerry died in 2012

"This issue is serious and Europe must take it in hand, immediately, because this is not a Mediterranean border but a European border."

Rome has repeatedly urged the European Union to take a greater role in policing the seas as two-thirds of migrants who reach Italy travel onwards to other countries in the region. The interior minister said 15,000 migrants had arrived in Italy by sea since the start of 2014.

Rescues over the past two days included one group of 1,049 migrants containing 91 women and three babies, who were spotted by a navy helicopter and a drone as their boats ran into difficulty. They were rescued by ships and brought to ports on the island of Sicily.

Alfano said that on Wednesday two commercial vessels alerted by Italian forces were aiding 661 people in distress and that at least one migrant on the boats had died during the journey.



AN EXHIBITION IN THE

PALACE - MALTESE IN CORFU

There was a very interesting exhibition in the Palace of Esplanade at Easter about the Corfiot Maltese Community. It demonstrated the history of the maltese immigrants who fled to Corfu from 1818 until 1832 invited by the then High Commissioner of the Ionian islands Thomas Maitland in order to help in the building of the Palace and other projects commissioned by the british authorities. The Palace had been built using maltese rock and the maltese people themselves by that time were famous for their building skills. Most of them lived in the neighbourhood named "Kotsela" which took its name from the island that most of maltese immigrants came from, Gozo.

Nowadays, the Maltese community is still quite big, there are more than 3000 people of Maltese origin living in Corfu. Most of them are christian catholics, they have hellenized Maltese surnames but unfortunately very few of them understand or speak the Maltese language.



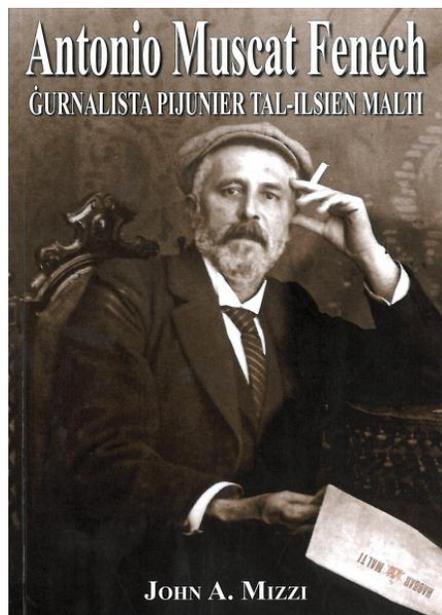
Here are some photos from the exhibition which took place inside the Palace built by the Maltese immigrants almost two centuries before. The exhibition featured rare photos from the everyday life of the maltese people as well as more than a century old documents such as music scores, certificates, books, passports etc.

Everywhere you go in Corfu one can see some shops bearing "Maltese" surnames, hotels named after Malta or bearing Maltese surnames (Hotel Maltezos and Hotel Debono are only two of many), and tourist guide books proudly stating that some of the main historical buildings on the island were built with Maltese stone by Maltese stone masons.

The new Mayor of Corfu (who was incidentally elected while on our trip on the island and maybe our influence on the electorate contributed to his success!) is of Maltese descent. His name is Sotiris Michalef (Saviour Micallef). Though we could not meet him personally at the time since he was busy after being elected, he is well aware of the new interest being shown by the Maltese in this island and my contacts in Corfu assure me that he is more than willing to further these ties. The Catholic Bishop is Iannis Spitieris (John Spiteri). In a country which is almost exclusively Orthodox in religion, the fact that Corfu has a Catholic community, most of whom are descendants of Maltese emigrants, is testimony to the vigour of the ancestral legacy.

Antonio Muscat Fenech

Gurnalista Pijunier tal-Ilsien Malti



Naħseb li fl-ebda pajjiż tad-dinja n-nies ma jinsew lil dawk li jkunu ħadmu għall-ġid u l-kobor ta' Isien art twelidhom daqskemm ninsew malajr aħna. Bħalissa għandi quddiem għajnejja l-figura simpatika tal-Kavallier Muscat Fenech li ħadem b'ħiltu u b'għaqlu kollu għat-tixrid tal-ilsien Malti. Dana huwa għajb għalina u jmissu għalhekk isir xi ħaġa biex l-isem ta' Muscat Fenech u x-xogħlijiet diversi tiegħu jkunu iktar magħrufa minn kulħadd. Jistħoqqlu jitqies fost il-pijunieri tal-Malti... F'ġieħ il-ħaqq u s-sewwa ma nistgħux, u m'għandniex, ninsewhom nies kbar bħal dawn.

Wieħed mill-ewlenin ħbieb tal-Malti li ħadmu biex iwaqqfu l-ilsien Malti fuq sisien sodi b'kitba msejsa fuq regoli stabbiliti ta' ortografija u grammatika kien Ninu Muscat Fenech. Dan kien il-bidu tal-qawmien tal-ilsien tagħna, il-bidu tal-kitba bil-Malti.



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